

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narrative  
Project #28**

**Project Title:** Extend Kanektok River Salmon Escapement Monitoring to include coho salmon.

**Investigator Organizations:** Native Village of Kwinhagak Natural Resource Department, King Salmon Fisheries Resources Office, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

**Geographic Area:** Kuskokwim Area

**Information Type:** Stock Status and Trends

**Issue Addressed:** Current monitoring efforts of subsistence fishery resources are inadequate. This project would extend current escapement monitoring activities to include coho salmon to ensure subsistence harvests needs are met.

**Study Objectives:**

1. Estimate coho salmon escapement for three years in the Kanektok River.

**Project Description:** A floating weir has been constructed through a cooperative effort of the USFWS, Native Village of Kwinhagak (NVK), Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA), ADF&G, and the Bering Sea Coastal Villages and will be installed in the Kanektok River in year 2000. Initial year costs, include equipment (gas powered rock hammer) and helicopter transport of weir panels to the project site. The project will be operated by NVK and ADFG during the chinook, sockeye and chum salmon runs (May - July). This request will fund helicopter and equipment cost for installation, and 8 weeks (August - September) of operation to monitor coho salmon escapement.

**Consultations Completed / Potential for Capacity Building:** Consultation and annual agreements have been in place since 1996 with ADF&G, Native Village of Kwinhagak IRA, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Bering Sea Coastal Villages, and Togiak NWR. Previous efforts sought to use a counting tower in the lower Kanektok River. Through much involvement by the NVK Natural Resource Department and Traditional Council this project is being converted to a floating weir. The current project is supervised and staffed locally by employees of NVK. ADFG has, and will continue to, provide personnel support. Cooperators combined share of funding and in-kind is approximately \$122K.

**Deliverables / Products:** Escapement estimates will be available for all species migrating up the Kanektok River from June to the end of September. Daily communication of escapement numbers will occur between the NVK project leader and ADFG Commercial Fisheries Office in Bethel. A final project report will be written by the NVK Biologist with review by ADFG and USFWS Biologist. Long term monitoring will allow for better in-season management decisions in the future.

**Costs:**

| Annual Budget Summary | USFWS    | NVK       | Total    |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| FY 2000               | \$ 6.0 K | \$ 27.8 K | \$33.8 K |
| FY 2001               | \$ 1.5 K | \$ 23.5 K | \$25.0 K |
| FY 2002               | \$ 1.5 K | \$ 23.5 K | \$25.0 K |
| Total                 | \$ 9.0 K | \$ 74.8 K | \$83.8 K |